

# Rhodora

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## QUERCUS RUBRA ONCE MORE

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For nearly 150 years the well-known timber tree of eastern United States was recognized as *Quercus rubra*, but in 1915 Sargent<sup>1</sup> used the name *Q. rubra* for the southern tree previously known as *Q. falcata* Michx. And recently Rehder<sup>2</sup> has entirely rejected the name *Q. rubra* on the ground that it is a *nomen ambiguum* "based by Linnaeus (Spec. Pl. 2: 996. 1753)<sup>3</sup> on two different species. The first two synonyms refer to the southern red oak or Spanish oak . . . , while the two synonyms enumerated by Linnaeus under β are apparently referable to the northern red oak. Du Roi in 1771 (Obs. Bot. 35) applied *Q. rubra* L. to the northern red oak. . . ." This quotation from Rehder (l. c.) explains succinctly the arguments of Sargent.

In my opinion both procedures were unnecessary, and I believe that we should apply the name *Quercus rubra*, as formerly, to the northern tree.

Sargent was correct in attaching great importance to the first

<sup>1</sup> RHODORA xvii. 39–40 (1915), xviii. 45–48 (1916).

<sup>2</sup> Journ. Arnold Arb. xix. 283–284 (1938).

<sup>3</sup> QUERCUS foliis obtuse-sinuatis setaceo-mucronatis.

Quercus foliorum sinubus obtusis: angulis lanceolatis seta terminatis integerrimis vix divis. Gron. virg. 117.

Quercus esculi divisura, foliis amplioribus aculeatis. Pluk. alm. 309. t. 54. f. 4. Catesb. car. I. p. 23. t. 23.

β Quercus foliorum sinubus obtusis: angulis acutis seta terminatis: intermediis vix tridentatis margine integerrimo. Hort. cliff. 448. Roy. lugdb. 80.

Quercus carolinensis, virentibus venis muricata. Catesb. car. I. p. 21. t. 21. f. 1.

Quercus virginiana venis rubris muricata. Pluk. alm. 309. t. 54. f. 1 [mistake for f. 5].  
Habitat in Virginia, Carolina